

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 38-65 were pending. By this Supplemental Reply, claims 1-17, 38-51, and 62-65 are canceled to expedite prosecution and without prejudice to Applicant's right to present them in this or another patent application, and claims 66-104 are added. Therefore, claims 52-61 and 66-104 are now pending. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as filed. Therefore, no new matter is entered by this Supplemental Reply.

Telephonic interview of February 6, 2004

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on February 6, 2004 between the Examiner and the undersigned. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 52 and its dependent claims are allowable.

New claims

New claims 66-78 are thermal cyclers claims that ultimately depend from allowable claim 52. Therefore, these claims are also allowable.

New claims 79-94 are thermal cycling method claims that depend ultimately from allowable claim 52. These claims therefore incorporate all the limitations of allowable claim 52 and consequently should be joined in the application. See M.P.E.P. § 821.04 ("withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be joined."). New claims 95-104 are thermal cycling claims that depend ultimately from claim 57.

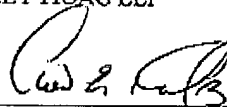
CONCLUSION

Applicant considers the application to be in condition for allowance.

No fees are believed due in connection with the filing of this Amendment and Response. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge or credit to our Deposit Account, No. 06-1448, any required fees due or overpayment thereof, respectively, in connection with the filing of this Supplemental Reply.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 617-832-1176 or at the telephone number listed below should any questions arise.

Respectfully submitted,
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